

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

W. A. DREW EDMONDSON, in his)
capacity as ATTORNEY GENERAL)
OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA and)
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF THE)
ENVIRONMENT C. MILES TOLBERT,)
in his capacity as the)
TRUSTEE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES)
FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA,)

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

4:05-CV-00329-TCK-SAJ

TYSON FOODS, INC., et al,)

Defendants.)

- - - - -

VOLUME I OF THE VIDEOTAPED
DEPOSITION OF ROGER OLSEN, PhD, produced as a
witness on behalf of the Defendants in the above
styled and numbered cause, taken on the 10th day of
September, 2008, in the City of Tulsa, County of
Tulsa, State of Oklahoma, before me, Lisa A.
Steinmeyer, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, duly
certified under and by virtue of the laws of the
State of Oklahoma.

1 (Whereupon, the deposition began at
2 9:03 a.m.)

3 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now on the Record for
4 the deposition of Dr. Roger Olsen. Today is
5 September 10th, 2008. The time is 9:03 a.m. Would 09:03AM
6 counsel please identify themselves for the Record?

7 MR. PAGE: David Page for the State of
8 Oklahoma.

9 MR. GEORGE: Robert George for the Tyson
10 defendants. 09:03AM

11 MR. McDANIEL: Scott McDaniel for Peterson
12 Farms, Inc.

13 MR. GRAVES: James Graves for George's,
14 Inc., and George's Farms, Inc.

15 MS. HILL: Theresa Hill for Cargill, Inc., 09:03AM
16 and Cargill Turkey Production, LLC.

17 VIDEOGRAPHER: And on the phone?

18 MS. GRIFFIN: Jennifer Griffin for Willow
19 Brook Foods.

20 MR. SANDERS: Bob Sanders for the Cal-Maine 09:03AM
21 defendants.

22 MR. BURNS: Bryan Burns for the Tyson
23 defendants.

24 MS. BRONSON: Vicki Bronson for Simmons
25 Foods. 09:03AM

1 VIDEOGRAPHER: Thank you. The witness may
2 be sworn in.

3 ROGER OLSEN, PhD
4 having first been duly sworn to testify the truth,
5 the whole truth and nothing but the truth, testified
6 as follows:

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. GEORGE:

9 Q Dr. Olsen, it's good to see you again. Are
10 you still employed with Camp, Dresser & McKee? 09:03AM

11 A Yes.

12 Q During your deposition in January of this year
13 you testified that the South Carolina law firm of
14 Motley Rice was paying for CDM's work in this case.
15 Is that still true? 09:04AM

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Has Attorney General Drew Edmondson or the
18 Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment paid CDM for
19 any work that it's performed in this case?

20 A No. 09:04AM

21 Q Has the State of Oklahoma paid CDM for any
22 work that it's performed in this case?

23 A No.

24 Q How much has CDM been paid to date, if you
25 could estimate for me, for its work in this case, 09:04AM

1 the land application of poultry litter?

2 A Yes, I do, and Bert Fisher actually reviewed
3 all these locations and verified they were
4 representative of runoff from land applied fields.

5 Q The second half of the chart on the right-hand 10:13AM
6 side is under the heading cattle; do you see that?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And, again, there's a reference to edge of
9 field samples; do you see that?

10 A Yes. 10:13AM

11 Q And can you provide the court with a
12 description of what the cattle edge of field samples
13 are and are intended to represent?

14 A Yeah. That's actually a misnomer, edge of
15 field, in my opinion. Those were collected this 10:13AM
16 spring. We were out -- CDM and Lithochimeia were
17 sampling actual cow manure samples, and it was
18 raining, and so after that rainstorm, my
19 understanding that two samples were collected on one

20 of the fields from -- one was from a ponded water 10:14AM
21 near the road and another one was from runoff a
22 little bit further up on the field, so they weren't
23 our classical edge of field runoff as the poultry
24 edge of field. They were kind of opportunistic
25 samples from a field that had cow manure on it. 10:14AM

1 Q Okay. Were they -- I'm sorry, strike that.

2 Was the intent of these samples under cattle edge of
3 field to capture runoff that would be representative
4 of a pasture where cattle had been grazed?

5 A That was the intent, you know, but after 10:14AM

6 looking at actually what was done and the location
7 of discrete cow pies on field, that's a pretty
8 difficult thing to do. To get a sample that was
9 representative of runoff and document that there

10 wasn't anything else but cows, that's extremely 10:15AM
11 difficult.

12 Q Well, did you try to document that?

13 A Yes, we did.

14 Q Okay, and have you reviewed the field notes
15 associated with this particular sampling event? 10:15AM

16 A Yes.

17 Q And have you reviewed the photographs taken on
18 site?

19 A No, I haven't done that. I was going to do
20 that but didn't get around to doing that yet. 10:15AM

21 Q Whose property were these cattle edge of field
22 samples taken from?

23 A This is Mr. Fife's (sic) property.

24 Q Do you know who Mr. Fite is?

25 A Yes. 10:15AM

1 Q Who is he?

2 A I think he works for the -- what's the
3 organization?

4 Q Is he the administrator of the Oklahoma Scenic
5 Rivers Commission? 10:15AM

6 A Yeah, yeah, administrator or executive
7 director or something, position like that, right.

8 Q And do you recall from your review of the
9 field notes associated with the cattle edge of field
10 sampling that Mr. Fite reported and it was recorded 10:16AM
11 in the notes that no poultry litter had ever been
12 applied on those pastures?

13 A That he was aware of.

14 Q Well, he was the owner of the property; right?

15 A Yes, but I don't remember him associating a 10:16AM
16 time frame with that or anything. So I don't know
17 how long he's owned it or what happened before that,
18 but maybe he's owned it, you know, for a long period
19 of time.

20 Q Do you have any evidence that poultry litter 10:16AM
21 was ever applied on that property?

22 A No, I don't but, again, the samples were
23 collected in an area that has other fields in it.
24 One sample is very near a road where dust could have
25 blown off trucks, which we've seen, or dust could 10:16AM

1 analysis in this case?

2 **A** Yes, I do.

3 **Q** Okay. Do you agree, Dr. Olsen, that the
4 scientific method -- you're familiar with the
5 scientific method; correct? 10:26AM

6 **A** Yes, sir.

7 **Q** Okay. Do you agree that the scientific method
8 required the Motley Rice experts to be open to the
9 conclusion that sources other than poultry were
10 responsible for the contamination alleged in this 10:26AM
11 case?

12 **A** Yes.

13 **Q** Okay, and do you agree that to be
14 scientifically defensible, it is important that
15 CDM's sampling approach in this case be set up to 10:26AM
16 capture sufficient data to evaluate contamination
17 from sources other than poultry litter?

18 **A** Yes.

19 **Q** Okay, and you collected 89 edge of field
20 samples in areas where you believed you would find 10:26AM
21 the impact of poultry waste; correct?

22 **A** That's both poultry and cattle waste. As we
23 know, there's cattle on all those fields and so
24 those were collected, any cattle waste that ran off
25 of that field, too. 10:27AM

1 component analysis work in this case and your
2 opinions about the source of contamination in
3 particular samples, do I understand correctly that
4 you've concluded that all samples with a Principal
5 Component 1 score of greater than 1.3 are in your
6 opinion impacted predominantly by poultry litter?

05:04PM

7 A There may be a few minor exceptions in there.
8 I'd have to go review it. There's some question
9 about the CP samples that we collected this morning,
10 so, you know, that needs further analysis. So
11 there's -- and a few samples I couldn't verify
12 locations of so I kind of excluded them, so there's
13 a very, very few, but generally that statement is
14 true.

05:04PM

15 Q Well, Dr. Olsen, in your report you said that
16 a Principal Component 1 score of 1.3 or greater is
17 consistent with and supports your opinion that that
18 sample reflects contamination from poultry litter;
19 is that right?

05:05PM

20 A Yeah, and I need to clarify that a little bit
21 more. There were some -- in that particular count,
22 I included inadvertently some of the wastewater
23 treatment plant discharges, so I need to take that
24 out of those percentages and analysis.

05:05PM

25 Q I didn't really ask about percentages so I'm

05:05PM

1 confused as to exactly what you are talking about.

2 What are you talking about?

3 A There were three wastewater treatment samples
4 that were scored and typically those had a principal
5 component score of above 1.3, and I would say that
6 those probably weren't contaminated by poultry.

05:05PM

7 Q Which three wastewater treatment plant
8 facilities are you referring to or samples?

9 A There was one from Siloam Springs, I think
10 from Rogers -- you want me to look that up for sure?

05:06PM

11 Q Sure.

12 A Siloam Springs.

13 Q What are you referring to, Dr. Olsen?

14 A Oh. Table 6.11-11.

15 Q 6.11-11?

05:07PM

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. Now, I don't have a Table 6-11.

18 A 6.11-11?

19 Q I don't have that.

20 A Largest PC2 scores and locations.

05:07PM

21 Q I missed a copy in my set. Can I look off of
22 yours?

23 A Sure.

24 Q All right. Which wastewater treatment plant
25 samples are you referring to?

05:07PM

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W. A. DREW EDMONDSON, in his)
capacity as ATTORNEY GENERAL)
OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA and)
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ENVIRONMENT C. MILES TOLBERT,)
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VOLUME II OF THE VIDEOTAPED
DEPOSITION OF ROGER OLSEN, PhD, produced as a
witness on behalf of the Defendants in the above
styled and numbered cause, taken on the 11th day of
September, 2008, in the City of Tulsa, County of
Tulsa, State of Oklahoma, before me, Lisa A.
Steinmeyer, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, duly
certified under and by virtue of the laws of the
State of Oklahoma.

1 (Whereupon, the deposition began at
2 8:32 a.m.)

3 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now on the Record for
4 Volume II of the deposition of Roger Olsen. Today
5 is September 11th, 2008. The time is 8:32 a.m. 08:32AM
6 Would counsel please identify themselves for the
7 Record?

8 MR. PAGE: David Page representing the
9 State of Oklahoma.

10 MR. GEORGE: Robert George representing the 08:32AM
11 Tyson defendants.

12 MS. SOUTHERLAND: Leslie Southerland for
13 Cargill.

14 VIDEOGRAPHER: Thank you. The witness may
15 be -- may continue.

16 ROGER OLSEN, PhD
17 having first been duly sworn to testify the truth,
18 the whole truth and nothing but the truth, testified
19 as follows:

20 CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. GEORGE:

22 Q Dr. Olsen, good morning. Good to see you
23 again today. Dr. Olsen, who is Rick Chappell -- I'm
24 sorry. Strike that. What role did Rick Chappell
25 have in the PCA work that underlies the opinions 08:32AM

1 Q -- you indicated that part of the bases for
2 your deciding the 1.3 criteria for Principal
3 Component 1 --

4 A Yes.

5 Q -- was based upon a review of high flow 09:06AM
6 samples from these subbasins; do you remember that?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q Okay. Tell me again how that worked and in
9 particular what information you were looking at
10 regarding poultry house density in those basins. 09:06AM

11 A Well, if you remember in the report, we
12 specifically set up the high flow stations on a
13 stratified basis, so we had -- tried to find
14 stations with very low impacts, some higher -- it
15 was a quintile-type setup to very high, so that we 09:06AM
16 would collect data across the whole range of
17 concentrations.

18 Q Okay. Where did you get the poultry house
19 density data that you used to set up that stratified
20 program? 09:07AM

21 A That's what we covered yesterday in that
22 section.

23 Q From Bert Fisher?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay, all right. So part of your analysis 09:07AM

1 that arrived at this 1.3 criteria for Principal
2 Component 1 was, if I understand it, you tell me if
3 I don't, based upon a review of principal component
4 scores in basins that had been identified as low
5 poultry house density; is that right? 09:07AM

6 A Yes, and then looking at the concentrations
7 and seeing that they were very low and they had very
8 low scores.

9 Q Dr. Olsen, did you actually get the poultry
10 house density map out and look at particular and 09:07AM
11 plotted values for your Principal Component 1 score?

12 A Get out what map?

13 Q Let's refer to -- let me find it real quick.
14 Figure 2.5-1 looks like this, Dr. Olsen.

15 A Okay. Got it. 09:09AM

16 Q Okay. You recognize Figure 2.5-1?

17 A Yes. Versions of this I've seen, yes.

18 Q Okay, and is this a representation of the
19 poultry house density data collected by Dr. Fisher
20 that you're referring to? 09:10AM

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay, and so when you were talking about, Dr.
23 Olsen, your spatial analysis, would this type of
24 information be part of what you used in that spatial
25 analysis? I'm trying to understand what you meant. 09:10AM

1 **A** No, I didn't specifically go in and look at
2 this. I did specifically look at the two or three
3 basins with very low chicken house density to see
4 their scores.

5 **Q** Okay, but the underlying density data that you 09:10AM
6 were looking at would be the source for what is
7 presented in Figure 2.5-1?

8 **A** Well, as I described in the text, there were a
9 variety of these produced at different stages in the
10 project, and I don't know for sure which one this 09:11AM
11 represents without looking.

12 **Q** Okay.

13 **A** And the final -- on the final PCA analysis, I
14 did a spatial analysis, you know, point by point,
15 but I didn't go back and look at this. I did 09:11AM
16 specifically for the very low scores because I
17 wanted to make sure I had a good cutoff. So I
18 looked at like High Flow Station 30. That was
19 specifically selected as a low density basin, and so
20 I wanted to see what those scores came out. 09:11AM

21 **Q** And when you say you looked -- you actually
22 looked at a map somehow; is that right?

23 **A** Well, I knew where High Flow Station 30 was
24 and I knew what the density was. In fact, we had a
25 table of all the high flow stations with the 09:11AM

1 density, so I didn't need to look at a map. I

2 looked at, you know, a table that had the high flow,

3 the numbers on them --

4 Q Okay, but --

5 A -- for chicken house density, so -- you know, 09:11AM

6 in the ones we selected because the high flow

7 stations were in specific basins, and those numbers

8 are reported in here, the chicken house densities in

9 those basins.

10 Q Okay, and were you looking to confirm that you 09:12AM

11 found Principal Component 1 scores in subbasins that

12 had reported low poultry house density or no poultry

13 house density?

14 A Was I looking for PC1 scores in those, quote,

15 internal references or -- yes, look I looked at all 09:12AM

16 those, yes.

17 Q Okay. So part of your check on this was

18 looking at the poultry house density data, and if

19 you found an anomaly in terms of a high Principal

20 Component 1 score in a basin that had low poultry 09:12AM

21 house density, that would cause you to want to

22 investigate further; is that the point of the

23 exercise?

24 A Well, the point of the exercise was trying to

25 determine that cutoff and how conservative I could 09:12AM

1 be because we know that almost everything is
2 impacted to some degree, but I wanted to be
3 conservative and had these minimal impact basins, so
4 most of the samples are below that 1.3 for the low
5 chicken house density basins, and that's described
6 in here.

09:13AM

7 Q Dr. Olsen, did you believe that the poultry
8 house density data provided by Dr. Fisher was
9 sufficiently reliable that it could be used to
10 evaluate the results of your principal component
11 analysis?

09:13AM

12 A I don't know if I used it to evaluate the
13 principal component analysis. It was a confirmation
14 that those basins that had lower chicken house
15 densities had lower concentrations and lower scores.

09:14AM

16 So I guess if you say that, I used that information
17 in a general way to confirm the PCA, that those
18 should have had low scores. There were some that

19 had high scores that we thought were -- or high
20 concentrations that we thought were low chicken
21 house densities and, yes, we did go investigate
22 that, and we found spreading in the basin that

09:14AM

23 hadn't been identified on the aerial, on the aerial
24 photograph. If I remember right, that's High Flow
25 Station 14. So it was supposedly a reference but it

09:14AM

1 had high concentrations, high feces scores, and
2 doing some actual field investigation, there was
3 actual spreading very near the river that had been
4 missed in the aerial photo, and, again, that's some
5 of the problem because this is based on chicken
6 house density but, you know, as you've indicated
7 already, we don't know where all the spreading is.
8 So we're using chicken house density as a rough
9 surrogate for spreading, but in all cases it wasn't
10 perfect.

09:14AM

09:15AM

11 Q Okay, but you used it as the initial check, if
12 you will, in your evaluation, the poultry house
13 density?

14 A Used it as one of the checks.

15 Q Okay, and I assume -- this is not a good
16 question, Dr. Olsen. I assume you wouldn't have
17 used it if you didn't believe that data had some
18 reliability to it; is that right?

09:15AM

19 A Yeah. It's generally reliable, except, you
20 know, the chemistry is a final analysis and, you
21 know, if it points out anomalies, we go look at it,
22 yeah.

09:15AM

23 Q Turn to Figure 6.11-23. This is what I
24 affectionately refer to as your red dot-green dot
25 map.

09:15AM

1 show as red dots the poultry impacted locations, you
2 colored the location of the cow pasture edge of
3 field samples red, didn't you?

4 A Yes, because they reflect some poultry
5 contamination.

09:26AM

6 Q Okay. Well --

7 A In my opinion.

8 Q Where is that red dot on this map?

9 A I think they're right here.

10 Q Can you draw a circle around it, please, on
11 your copy?

09:26AM

12 A (Witness complied).

13 Q And can you now draw an X through it, please?

14 A Sure.

15 Q Okay. Go to Figure 6.11-18C.

09:26AM

16 A Okay.

17 Q Are the sample locations shown in Figure
18 6.11-18C that are above 1.3 on Principal Component 1
19 but also in the circle of the wastewater treatment
20 plant dominated impact area plotted red on your map?

09:27AM

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay, and how many -- well, let me ask, are
23 all of the dots that are shown in this wastewater
24 treatment plant dominant impact on your map as red?

25 A Yes, except the -- shouldn't have -- as I

09:27AM

1 said, the three wastewater treatment plants
2 shouldn't have been plotted as red.

3 Q Okay, but all the others, there are a whole
4 lot more than the three samples that you've
5 identified as showing the predominantly wastewater 09:27AM
6 treatment impact; correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. In fact, if I look at your Figure
9 6.11-18C, roughly I'd say there are 25 samples in
10 that circle; is that right? 09:28AM

11 A Yeah, if you count them, just approximately.

12 Q Okay. Are all 25 of those samples that you
13 have circled as wastewater treatment dominantly
14 impacted shown as a red dot on Figure 6.11-23?

15 MR. PAGE: Object to the form. 09:28AM

16 A Except the ones I've already noted.

17 Q Well, but the ones you've already noted are
18 also shown as a red dot, aren't they?

19 A Yes, yes, yes, they are. In my opinion they
20 still show some poultry waste impact, although it 09:28AM
21 isn't the dominant impact.

22 Q Right. It's not the dominant impact because
23 they're outside the dominant poultry waste circle
24 that you've drawn; right?

25 A That's right, but they still show some impact. 09:28AM

1 think related to the metals being mobilized with the
2 organic carbon and staying in solution and not being
3 attenuated.

4 So your question was how many of these are
5 conservative. Potassium, TS, two, magnesium, three, 05:29PM
6 most of the phosphorus, four, five, six, a little
7 attenuation there. So in my opinion, there's five
8 or six that are very conservative but not -- you can
9 never say anything is an exact conservative element,
10 and the rest of them, you know, have some 05:29PM
11 attenuation but in my opinion not to affect the
12 overall evaluation of their transport throughout the
13 basin.

14 Q In fact, your principal component analysis
15 assumes that they're all conservative, doesn't it? 05:29PM

16 A No.

17 Q Specifically how did you account for the
18 differences in fate and transport via surface water
19 pathways as compared, for instance, to groundwater
20 pathways? 05:30PM

21 A I didn't have to in the principal component
22 analysis. It gives me a chemical analysis at a
23 particular spot, and if I still see the constituents
24 and it has a particular score, then it's impacted.
25 It can be certainly, as we talked about this 05:30PM

1 morning, diluted. It can be attenuated, but as long
2 as they're still there, it doesn't matter. So it's
3 a conservative, maybe considered conservative, but
4 we're looking at individual samples and individual
5 locations and see what we have there, so you don't
6 have to account for the fate and transport.

05:30PM

7 Q Now, from what I've heard, your testimony
8 primarily with Mr. George, to look at how this --
9 your poultry fingerprint primarily described on
10 Figure 6.11-18C where you've drawn the two areas,
11 you have cattle, edge of field samples that show
12 up -- I know they're not on this chart but they show
13 up within the poultry signature. You've got water,
14 residence water wells that show up in the sewage
15 signature. You've got Tahlequah samples where
16 there's no poultry that show up as poultry impacted.
17 Did it ever occur to you, Dr. Olsen, that the
18 problem is not in the watershed, it is that your
19 fingerprinting methodology is flawed?

05:31PM

05:31PM

20 A Those are anomalies that we try to explain,
21 and there's always going to be some minor anomalies
22 in my opinion. Those are minor for the hundreds and
23 hundreds of samples that we have in the whole
24 analysis. So I don't think the analysis is flawed
25 at all.

05:32PM

05:32PM